

**STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN
SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
NOMINATION HEARING OF DAVITA VANCE-COOKS, NOMINEE FOR
PUBLIC PRINTER OF THE UNITED STATES**

June 12, 2013

I am pleased to support the nomination of Davita Vance-Cooks for Public Printer of the United States, to lead the Government Printing Office. She comes to us with a very strong record of 25 years in the private sector and nine years in management at GPO. I believe she is uniquely well-prepared for this opportunity. The confirmation of Ms. Vance-Cooks also would be historic; she would be the first woman and the first African-American confirmed as Public Printer.

Ms. Vance-Cooks has been serving as Acting Public Printer since January 4, 2012. Under her guidance, GPO has faced a fast-moving digital environment and the fiscal constraints of budget cuts followed by further reductions under sequestration. These challenges are being met by Ms. Vance-Cooks with innovation and keen understanding. In February 2013, Vance-Cooks met tirelessly with GPO employees to discuss GPO's sequestration plans. She has managed the sequester so far without furloughs, and while maintaining GPO's essential services. At the same time, she is building for the future by modernizing the agency and pursuing profitable new products.

GPO has been undergoing a transformation from a printing operation to a broad-based publishing operation with specific emphases on digital information platforms and secure credentials such as passports. GPO is a large, complex operation that requires outstanding leadership to fulfill its obligations to Congress, the executive branch, and the public. Ms. Vance-Cooks has just what GPO needs as it continues to transform itself from an ink-on-paper operation to a full-service publisher of digital and print products.

Under Ms. Vance-Cooks, GPO has made great strides to diversify its services in many areas. Apps of Congressional and other government information have been introduced for mobile devices, more e-books have been created, and tickets and other materials for the 2013 Presidential Inauguration were completed on time. GPO continued to increase business for passports and secure IDs, producing 10 million passports in 2012. The State Department has asked GPO to develop the next generation of passports, to be issued starting in 2015.

The Rules Committee is using the new "smart form" developed in consultation with Senate by the White House working group established by the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-166). I worked with Senator Alexander, who strongly advocated and worked tirelessly for such a form. It will help streamline the confirmation process and reduce inadvertent errors in reporting information. The Senate Rules Committee is one of the first Senate Committees to agree to use the form for its nominations.

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, I believe Ms. Vance-Cooks has demonstrated that she will be the right person at the helm of GPO to continue its transformation. I am pleased to support her confirmation, and I urge my colleagues to move expeditiously on her nomination.